



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 21, 2005
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DAYTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CONSPIRACY CHARGE

DAYTON - Michael D. Horton, age 30, Dayton, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin, crack cocaine, and the prescription drug Xanax, which caused the death of another person. Horton faces a mandatory minimum of 20 years imprisonment and a possible life sentence, along with a maximum \$1,000,000 fine when he is sentenced.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Stanley M. Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division, Michael Braun, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Dayton Police Chief Julian Davis, Ohio State Highway Patrol Colonel Paul D. McClellan, and Director Reginald A. Wilkinson of the Ohio Department of Corrections, announced the plea entered today before United States District Court Judge Walter Herbert Rice.

Horton was on day five of his trial for these charges when he decided to plead guilty. A statement of facts read during the plea indicated that Horton, along with other co-conspirators, operated a conspiracy to distribute heroin, crack cocaine, and the prescription drug Xanax to individuals in the Dayton area.

During part of the conspiracy, Horton was incarcerated at an Ohio state prison. Horton operated the drug conspiracy from the prison. In April of 2000, Horton sold heroin to two individuals from his apartment at 1032 Wayne Avenue in Dayton. One of the individuals died as a result of ingesting the heroin.

"The prosecution of Mr Horton teaches us two important lessons. First, drug dealers should be leery because their reckless behavior could cause the death of individuals and result in lengthy penalties. Second, citizens should be concerned that their own recreational drug use can result in severely adverse consequences to themselves and their families," Lockhart said. Judge Rice set sentencing for December 16, 2005.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by agents of the DEA, FBI, Dayton Police officers, the Ohio Department of Corrections, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheila Lafferty who prosecuted the case and DEA Special Agent Ray Dratt.

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